



**Torrington Even Start  
A Family Learning Program**

Written Testimony of Luis Rosado  
Parent, Torrington Even Start Program  
Appropriations Committee  
February 16, 2016

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Luis Rosado. I am a Torrington Even Start parent. Even Start is a family learning program that provides comprehensive family-centered education programs to improve children's academic success and to increase parents' economic opportunities.

I am writing to urge you to reinstate funding for the Even Start Program line item in the Office of Early Childhood budget to support local two generation learning.

In my community, the Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative in Partnership with the Torrington Public Schools, received \$146,952.67 from this line item which was leveraged and matched resulting in more than \$150,000 to support creating healthy outcomes for families with young children and paving a way to higher education and careers.

As a parent in the Even Start Program, I am asking for you please not to cut off our funding. This program is helping me and the rest of the young parents. The Even Start teaches me things I never knew and I never knew how much help I can get from the community, but Even Start helped me out. We learn something new every time we go to the program. We really need to keep the program because it has a good benefit for all the young adults/parents. The people running Even Start are really kind and they teach things so well.

Thank you for your time to read this letter. It means a lot to me and all the people in the Even Start.

Sincerely,

Luis Rosado